

03/16/99

JC542 U.S. PTO

PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

(Small Entity)

Docket No.

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111 and 37 C.F.R. 1.53 is the patent application of:

DEGABLI, Arie

For: COMBINATION UTILITY KNIFE

JC542 U.S. PTO
09/270151
03/16/99

Enclosed are:

- ☒ Certificate of Mailing with Express Mail Mailing Label No. EE567859948US
- ☒ One sheets of drawings.
- ☐ A certified copy of a application.
- ☒ Declaration ☒ Signed. ☐ Unsigned.
- ☐ Power of Attorney
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Copy of Provisional Verified Statement(s) to Establish Small Entity Status Under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27.
- ☒ Other: Express Mail Certification; Return Postcard

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	6	- 20 =	0	x \$9.00	\$0.00
Indep. Claims	3	- 3 =	0	x \$39.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$380.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$380.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of \$380.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of as filing fee.
- ☐ Credit any overpayment.
- ☐ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

Dated:

ARIE DEGABLI

Signature

Arie Degabli

CC:

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27 (c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN			Docket No.
Serial No.	Filing Date	Patent No.	Issue Date
Applicant/ DEGABLI, Arie Patentee:			
Invention: COMBINATION UTILITY KNIFE			
<p>I hereby declare that I am:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the owner of the small business concern identified below:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:</p> <p>NAME OF CONCERN: <u>Arie Degabli General Contracting Corp.</u></p> <p>ADDRESS OF CONCERN: <u>550 Frontage Road, Suite 3605, Northfield, IL 60093</u></p> <p>I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.</p> <p>I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the above identified invention described in:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the application identified above.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the patent identified above.</p> <p>If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed on the next page and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).</p>			

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ no such person, concern or organization exists.
☐ each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: Arie Degabli

TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING _____

OTHER THAN OWNER: President

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING: 550 Frontage Road, Suite 3605, Northfield, Illinois 60093

SIGNATURE: Arie Degabli 1/5/98 DATE: 1/5/1998

Combination Utility Knife

Priority Application

This invention claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/116167, filed on January 15, 1999.

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to utility knives, and more particularly, utility knives adapted to be conveniently used with tape measures.

Background of the Invention

Utility knives are well known in the art and used for a wide variety of cutting needs. In general, a utility knife includes a handle and a removable cutting blade. Utility knife handles have been constructed in a number of different shapes, most shapes being generally designed to fit comfortably in the hand during cutting. The handles generally include a 2-part housing which is held together with screws and which contains a hook for removably inserting a blade. The blades are either fixed in a position partly extending from the handle, or may be retracted into the handle from an extended position. In using the utility knife for cutting, the user grasps the knife in one hand, applies the cutting edge of the blade to the material to be cut, then applies simultaneous drawing and pushing forces on the blade.

In some applications, the cuts from the utility knife must be precisely placed. For instance, plasterboard (also known as drywall or sheetrock) is a common wall material that is generally sold in sheets sized 4 feet by 8 feet. When attaching these sheets to studs to form a wall, it is often necessary to cut a strip off the side of the plasterboard sheet, for

example, for installation in a corner of a room or to form a soffit. Also, quite often, the space in which the plasterboard is to be applied is irregular in shape, requiring difficult and precise cuts for optimal area coverage. A skilled user conventionally makes such cuts by simultaneously operating a tape measure along with the knife.

For instance, when cutting plasterboard using conventional means, the user holds the tab of a tape measure against the handle of the utility knife with his or her thumb, as close to the surface to be cut as possible. The user then extends the tape measure across the plasterboard sheet to the desired distance with the opposite hand. Then, with the tape measure reel in one hand and the knife and tape measure tab in the other, the user will simultaneously slide both the knife and the measuring tape down the sheet to score a line in the plasterboard. The tape measure is then set aside, and a deeper final cut is made along the score line. The strip to be removed is then bent with respect to the remainder of the sheet until it snaps.

This method suffers from a number of drawbacks, however. Because it is difficult to apply sufficient pressure to the knife while holding the tape measure, the user must make two cuts in the plasterboard; if the user presses too hard during the first cut, there is a risk of injury and that an inaccurate cut will be made. Thus, the first cut is generally not sufficiently deep for performing the function of creating a score deep enough for bending the plasterboard, and a second cut is generally needed. Also, when measuring and scoring, the measurement is inaccurate by the distance between the knife blade and the end of the ruler, which must be estimated and accounted for by the user. In addition, the tape measure tab is awkward and uncomfortable to grasp during cutting. Also, if the tape

measure tab slips from the user's grasp during cutting and the tension between the blade and the measure is changed, the blade will generally be deflected from its desired course and create inaccurate or jagged cuts. Lastly, placing one's thumb so near the cutting surface of the blade during operation of the knife subjects the user to unnecessary levels of risk of cutting the fingers.

Several prior art inventions attempted to overcome these risks. One such invention is a utility knife attachment that creates a slot next to the blade whereby the tab from a utility knife may be attached. This invention, however, is attached next to the blade and limits the depth to which the blade may be used for cutting, since materials other than plasterboard, such as foam insulation, are also cut by utility knives. In addition, it is necessary to carry a small part in addition to the utility knife. Lastly, in order to install and remove the part, the utility knife must be disassembled. Another prior art device includes a slot for receiving a tape measure tab that is formed in the backbone of a utility knife, wherein the tape measure is held parallel to the cutting edge of the blade of the utility knife. This device creates cuts that are inaccurate in that the measure is held away from the wall and almost perpendicular to the wall, causing the user to estimate and account for these inherent inaccuracies in measurement. Moreover, where the rule surface of the measure is not parallel to the surface to be cut, the rule may be difficult to read, leading to mistakes in measurement.

Thus, it is a principal object of the invention to provide a utility knife which is capable of cooperating with a tape measure to allow the cutting blade to be positioned accurately.

It is another object of the invention to provide a means for simultaneous cutting with a utility knife and accurate measuring which will allow the user the user to keep his fingers away from the blade.

It is yet another object of the invention to provide a convenient means for simultaneous cutting of plasterboard and measuring with a tape measure.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a means for simultaneous measuring and cutting where the rule surface of the measure remains parallel to the surface of the material to be cut.

Other objects and variations of the invention will be obvious to those skilled in the art and are included within the scope of the invention.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention overcomes the drawbacks in the prior art by incorporating a pair of hooks into the blade end of the handle of a common utility knife, which hooks are designed to removably secure the tab of a spring-biased measuring tape such that the tape may extend roughly laterally from the knife but also roughly parallel to the surface being cut.

The angles of the hook are designed to correct for measuring inaccuracies created by the distance that the knife blade must be held away from the surface to be cut; the invention allows the printed measuring surface of the tape measure to remain roughly parallel to the surface being cut, allowing for great ease in reading measurements from the ruler during cutting. The positioning of the hooks near the bottom surface of the knife and very close to the end of the knife allows for the tape to be in very close proximity and

parallel orientation to the surface to be cut, thus improving the visibility of the measuring surface and the accuracy of the measurement over prior art devices. In addition, the hooks minimize the need for the user to place his fingers alongside the cutting surface of the blade. Lastly, the utility knife of the invention distributes the pulling forces created by extending the tape measure during cutting evenly throughout the housing than would be obtained by a device which attaches to a blade.

Although the angled hooks may be formed in a variety of locations or in a variety of configurations, the preferred embodiment of the present invention employs a generally inverted triangular hook formed in the bottom surface of both halves of the housing. Positioned thusly, the user may comfortably grasp the handle of the knife in a natural manner while the measuring tape remains close to the surface to be measured, and the rule remains approximately parallel to the surface to be measured and thus clearly visible to the user. In addition, this position will not interfere with the retraction mechanism of a retractable utility knife.

The hook may be sized to accommodate almost all commercially available tape measure tabs which are inserted and removed with a simple sliding action, thus creating a fast and smooth use.

Although the preferred embodiment will be set forth in greater detail below, other features and embodiments will be obvious to one skilled in the art. Such features and embodiments are within the scope of this invention.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a schematic view from the side of a utility knife having the measuring tape hooks of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view showing the knife of the invention during use in combination with a tape measure.

Brief Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring first to FIG. 1, a utility knife 10 of the present invention is shown including a housing 12, and a cutting blade 14. The invention contemplates that any utility knife design and blade are suitable for use with the invention. For exemplary purposes only, a conventional housing 12 is shown with a conventional removable blade 14. However, the invention is equally suitable for use with conventionally designed retractable blade utility knives as well.

As depicted in FIG. 1, each half of the housing 12 contains a blade receptacle 16. The blade receptacle 16 contains a plurality of pegs 18, of which two are the current commercial standard. The knife 10 is used with the blade 14 extending from the housing, although for storage the blade may optionally be retractable. The blade 14 is fitted with notches 20, which correspond to pegs 18 within the blade hook. When the blade 14 is properly inserted into the receptacle 16, the blade notches 20 fit around the pegs 18 to properly orient the blade 14 within the housing 12. The two halves of the housing 12 contain a fastening means, here shown as a screw 24 to be inserted into threaded screw holes 22. The halves are fitted together and fastened with a fastening means such as a screw 24 inserted into the screw hole 22 and tightened.

In accordance with the present invention and as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, each part of the housing 12 incorporates a hook 26, the hook and the housing defining a space having two sides 28 and 30 and an apex 32. Side 28 is parallel with respect to side 30 and sides 28 and 30 and apex 32 define a space 34 which is used to insert a measuring tape tab 36. Side 30 forms an edge against which the measuring tab 36 rests during use of the knife 10 and measuring tape 38 in accordance with the principles of the invention.

In the preferred embodiment, the hooks 26 comprise two juxtaposed openings in the side and bottom of the housing. Each hook 26 is used independent of the other, and together the two hooks 26 provide for greater flexibility in measuring from each side of the knife.

In FIG. 2, the cooperative engagement of the knife 10 of the present invention with a conventional measuring tape 38 is depicted. In its conventional form, a measuring tape 38 incorporates an elongated ruler portion 40 which includes a right-angled tab 36 mounted to the end of the ruler portion 40. Typically, tab contains a mounting portion 42, a flange 44 and a tab 46. The mounting portion 42 is affixed to the ruler portion 40 in order to position the flange 44 as the "zero" point of the ruler.

In using the present invention, the tab 46 is quickly and easily engaged by the hook 26 so that the flange 44 is resting upon side 30, and the tab is in abutting engagement with the hook.

With the flange 44 retained by the hook 26, the zero position of the measuring tape is very close to the cutting surface 50 of the blade 14. Moreover, because of the angle of side 30 with respect to the cutting surface 50 of the blade, the ruler portion 40 of the

measuring tape 38 is held closely parallel to the surface to be cut 54, minimizing measuring inaccuracies resulting from the measuring tape 38 being held either at an angle to the surface to be cut, or farther away from the surface to be cut 52.

As used herein, the “surface to be cut” includes any surface for which the invention would have utility, including but not limited to plasterboard, sheetrock, cement board, laminates, paneling, wood sheets and the like. Conveniently, the hooks 26 are located on both sides of the knife 10, facilitating precise measurement extending laterally from both sides of the housing.

It is thus seen from the above description of a preferred embodiment that the objects of the invention are attained. Variations on this embodiment will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention. All matter contained in the above description and the accompanying drawings is intended to be illustrative of the invention, and not limiting in the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A utility knife comprising:

a housing having two separable halves forming two sides, a top and a bottom;

a blade removably engaged within the housing and having a cutting edge, wherein the cutting edge extends from the bottom of the housing; and

a hook in each half of the housing;

wherein the hook and the housing form a space having a first side, a second side and an apex, wherein the space and the hook may reversibly retain a measuring tape having a tab in a close and substantially parallel alignment to a surface to be cut, wherein the tape extends laterally from a side of the knife.

2. The utility knife of claim 1 wherein the blade is retractable.

3. The utility knife of claim 1 wherein the space further comprises an open end located on the bottom surface of the utility knife near the blade..

4. A means for simultaneous cutting and measuring comprising the steps of:

Grasping a utility knife comprising a blade and a housing, the housing having two sides and a hook in each side of the housing, each hook being adapted to receive a tape measure tab, wherein the hook is adapted to hold the tape measure in a position approximately parallel to the surface to be cut;

inserting the tab of a detachable extendable measuring tape comprising a ruler and a tab into the hook so that the measure is in a position approximately parallel to the surface to be cut;

extending the measuring tape a sufficient distance to measure the size of the surface to be cut; and

inserting the blade of the utility knife into the desired location on the surface to be cut; and

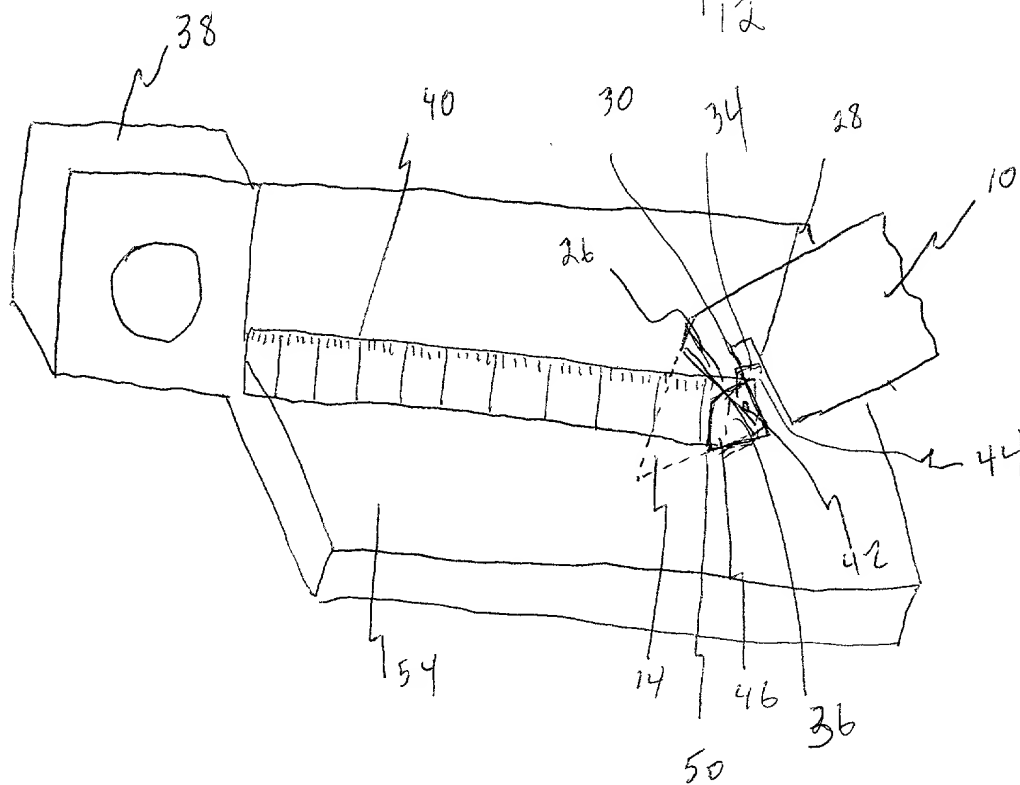
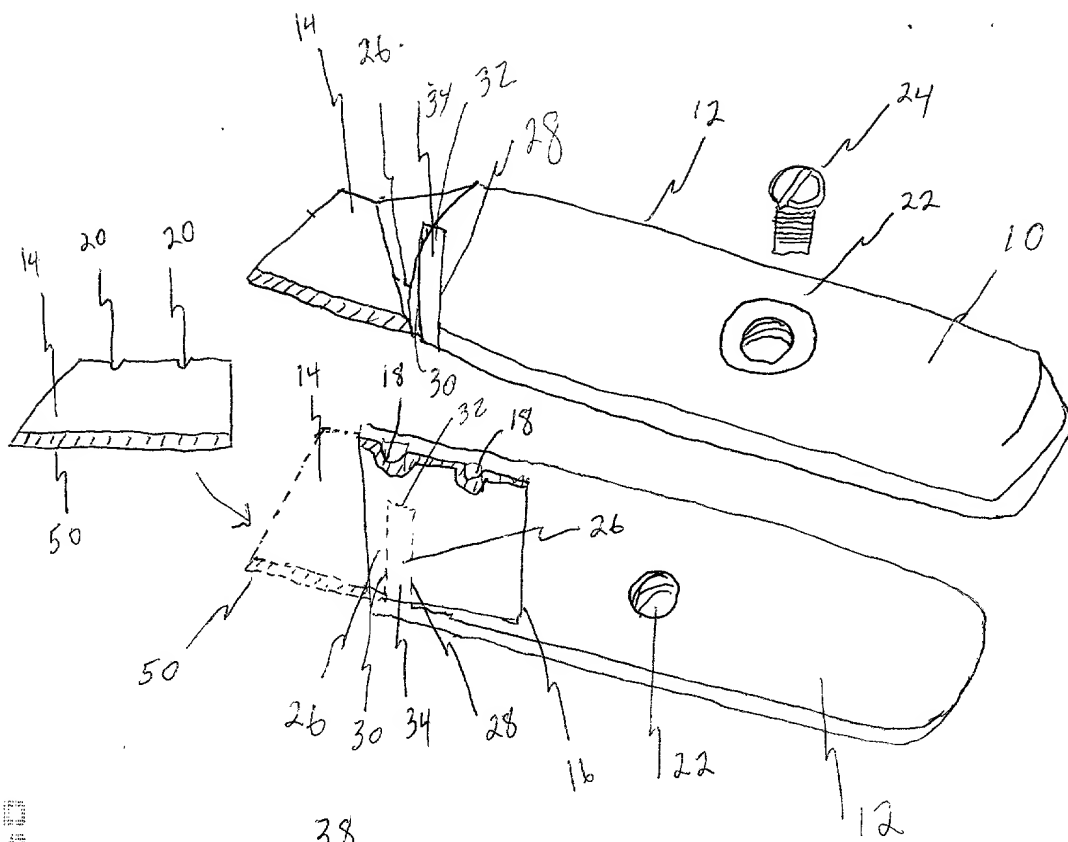
simultaneously pulling on both the tape measure and the utility knife while cutting with the utility knife so that the tape measure and the utility knife are substantially oppositely aligned with the ruler extending between them.

5. A utility knife comprising a blade and a housing, the housing having two sides and a hook in each side of the housing, each hook being adapted to receive a tape measure tab, wherein the hook is adapted to hold the tape measure in a position approximately parallel to the surface to be cut.

6. The utility knife of claim 4 wherein the blade is retractable.

Abstract

The present invention is a utility knife adapted for measuring by incorporating a pair of hooks into the blade end of the handle of a common utility knife, which hooks are designed to removably secure the tab of a spring-biased measuring tape such that the tape may extend roughly laterally from the knife but also roughly parallel to the surface being cut. The angles of the hook relative to the knife end are designed to correct for measuring inaccuracies created by the distance that the knife blade must be held away from the surface to be cut; the invention allows the printed measuring surface of the tape measure to remain roughly parallel to the surface being cut, allowing for great ease in reading the measurements during cutting.



Docket No.

Declaration For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

COMBINATION UTILITY KNIFE

the specification of which

(check one)

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

60/116,167

15 January 1999

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, CFR Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Citizenship	
Post Office Address	

Full name of third inventor, if any	
Third inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	

Full name of fourth inventor, if any	
Fourth inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	